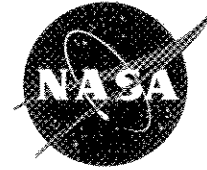


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 11, 2009

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the American Astronautical Society (AAS) 47<sup>th</sup> Robert H. Goddard Memorial Symposium on March 10-12, 2009

The AAS will hold its 47<sup>th</sup> Robert H. Goddard Memorial Symposium on Tuesday through Thursday, March 10-12, 2009, at the Marriott Hotel in Greenbelt, MD, from 8:00am-5:00pm daily. The AAS promotes space exploration and fosters interaction of the aerospace industry, Government agencies, and academia. The theme for this year's Symposium is "Sustainable Space Exploration". Rob Strain, Director, NASA Goddard Space Flight, is this year's keynote speaker. As part of the three-day Symposium, a reception will be held on the evening of March 11<sup>th</sup> and luncheons on both days. The featured luncheon speakers will be Senator John Glenn and Christopher Scolese, NASA Administrator (Acting).

The Symposium and related events will be widely attended by individuals from other Federal agencies, academia, the aerospace industry, and others who are involved in NASA projects, and with whom NASA personnel will be involved in the implementation of its programs. The estimated costs for food and beverages is \$30 per person for the reception. Approximately 300 people are expected to attend. AAS is solely responsible for selecting, inviting, and seating of NASA guests.

I find these events meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend these events. This Symposium will allow NASA employees to share their views with others interested in space exploration. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, or who are in non-career positions in which the President's Executive Order of January 21, 2009, requires signing an ethics pledge, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone", written over a horizontal line.

Adam F. Greenstone